



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CAREX TINCTA **SLENDER SEDGE**

Slender Sedge is a grass-like perennial that grows in dense clumps with stems 40-100 cm high, arising from creeping rhizomes. The 3-4 leaves per stem are flat and 3-4 mm wide. Flowers are clustered in 4-10 sessile spikes in close proximity to each other at the top of the stem. Male flowers are at the base of each spike. The pale green to straw-colored, egg-shaped perigynia are 3-4 mm long and taper gradually to a poorly-defined beak. The firm scales are brown with white margins and a green center and are the same length as the perigynia that they subtend. Each perigynium has 2 stigmas, winged margins and an achene that is lens-shaped. Fruiting mature in July - August.

CAREX TINCTA differs from the common *C. BEBBII* in that the latter has dark brown perigynia. The spikes of *C. TENERA* are more widely separated than those of *C. TINCTA*. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.